

October 20, 2003

Dear Kamyar, Paul, and others,

I have several important comments and corrections for the draft “Global Climate Change” section of the B160 draft of September 30th. First of all, congratulation for getting this far. I know a lot of effort has gone into this.

Specific Comments:

Page 3-25; first paragraph of Global climate change section: It currently says “Climate changes have occurred during the 20th century, with measurable warming in the past two decades...” Please change to “**Climate changes have occurred during the 20th century. The current consensus in the scientific community is that measurable warming and other changes caused by human activities are already being observed.**” Please delete the next phrase “Whatever the causes,” and begin the next sentence with “**The prospects of significant changes warrant...**”

Page 3-25; second paragraph of Global climate change section: It currently says “While the specific effects are uncertain...” Change this to “**While some specific effects are uncertain...**” Not ALL specific effects are uncertain; indeed, the National Assessment report described some, like sea level rise and snowmelt changes as “highly certain” or “highly likely.”

Page 3-25; third paragraph of Global climate change section: delete “possible implications of climate change.” and replace with “**consistent and significant effects on Sierra snowpack.**”

Page 3-26, top. Replace the sentence “Less spring snowmelt could make it...” With the sentence: “**Changes in the timing of snowfall and snowmelt will require changes in the operation of California’s water systems and infrastructure.**” This is more accurate: less spring snowmelt is only one possibility; more clear is “changes in timing”

Page 3-26 top. Replace the sentence “Lower early summer reservoir ... with “**Changes in reservoir levels also would affect lake recreation and hydroelectric power production and could impact fisheries by altering water temperatures and quality.**” This is more accurate.

Page 3-26: section on Sea level Rise. In the second sentence, delete the phrase “, at least 0.2 meter (0.7 feet) in the next century based on the apparent recent historical rate,” so the sentence reads “**Sea level will likely rise, with models projecting a median rise of ...**” A projection based solely on historical rate of rise is misleading and inaccurate.

Page 3-27: Urban and agricultural demand paragraph: Insert the word “**Some**” before “laboratory tests indicate...” in the second sentence. Not all lab (or field) tests show this effect. Add at the end of this paragraph: “**More research is needed in this area.**”

Page 3-27: Paragraph on Aquatic life: delete “reduced” in first sentence and replace with “**changes in**”. Also, what does “increases the reaction rates” mean??? This sentence is unclear.

Page 3-27: There is something wrong in the section “Other impacts” in the JACT sentence. Rewrite. Also, add the words “of impacts” after “better quantification” in the last sentence “...**developed, better quantification of impacts will be possible.**”

I hope these are clear. If you have any questions, call immediately: 510 251-1600.

Thanks,
Peter Gleick
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